APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 575 asked by Sri T. S. Ramaswami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 4th March 1961, page 205 supra.

Conclusions and recommendations of the Conference of State Ministers of Agriculture held in New Delhi on the 26th and 27th August 1960.

1. *Integrated Agricultural District Programme.*—Realising the importance of the Intensive Agricultural District Programme in stepping up agricultural production, the Conference welcomed the decision to extend it to one district in each State and one Union Territory. As it would not be possible to accommodate the financial provisions required for this programme within the ceiling contemplated for the Agricultural Sector, the Conference recommended that additional provision of Rs. 25 crores should be made separately for this programme in addition to the ceiling of Rs. 625 crores for the agricultural programme.

2. *Fertilisers.*—The Conference noted that although the demand for chemical fertilisers has been going up rapidly in recent years, it is not being met in full because of the inadequacy of internal production and non-availability of foreign exchange for import of fertilisers. As fertilisers are the surest and quickest means of increasing the agricultural production, the Conference stressed that the supply of adequate quantities of fertilisers should be assured under the Third Five-Year Plan. It was noted that the Planning Commission had already intimated the State Governments the yearly break-up of the supply of fertilisers during the Third Plan period. To achieve the target of 100–105 million tons of foodgrains, the need for providing adequate foreign exchange for import of fertilisers was emphasised.

3. The Conference took note of the suggestion of the West Bengal Government for regulating the movement of fertilisers from one State to another and suggested that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture might undertake an examination of the various issues involved in the regulation of the inter-State movement of fertilisers

4. In order to ensure timely distribution of available supplies of fertilisers, the Conference recognised that there should be suitable storage facilities for stocking fertilisers at appropriate places in different states, from where they could be distributed to cultivators speedily and in time. The assistance available in the form of grants and loans under the co-operative sector for building up of storage godowns might be availed of.

5. *Agricultural requisites.*—The Conference noted the shortage of agricultural machinery such as tractors, bulldozers, power-sprayers and dusters, as also of pesticides, nylon nets, etc., within the country and recommended that the possibility of manufacturing them should be explored as this shortage is retarding the progress of agricultural prouction. It also recommended that adequate

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foreign exchange should be provided for the import of these agricultural requisites till such time as their internal production could be organised.

6. *Improved implements.*—Recognising the need for propagating improved agricultural implements on a large scale, the Conference recommended that steps should be taken to arrange for adequate manufacture and popularisation of these improved implements. In one centre in each State improved implements might be kept for dissemination of knowledge regarding these implements. The Conference felt that selective mechanisation has a definite place in Indian agriculture and should be promoted. Pilot machines and implement centres should be set up on a regional basis in each State.

7. *Allocation of iron and steel.*—The Conference noted that although allocations of iron and steel have recently been raised, the position regarding the actual supplies has continued to be unsatisfactory. It, therefore, recommended that the existing arrangements for the distribution of iron and steel should be streamlined and that adequate supplies should be made available in time. In view of the proposed drive for large-scale popularization of improved agricultral implements, the Conference recommended that adequate supply of iron and steel for their manufacture should be assured and that there should be a separate quota for agriculture. Although iron and steel for agriculture was proposed to be included in the 'Core' of the Plan, it was not subsequently done. The Conference emphasised that iron and steel for agriculture should have the same priority as for the 'Core' projects under the Plan.

8. *Co-ordination between various departments.*—As the implementation of agricultural development programmes is being hampered by lack of co-ordination between the various departments, the Conference stressed that steps should be taken in each State for ensuring proper co-ordination between the departments dealing with agricultural development, namely, Irrigation, Co-operation, Community Development and Agriculture at all levels. To eliminate divided responsibility, it was suggested that all these departments might be put in charge of one Minister.

9. *Agricultural Commodities Advisory Committee.*—The Conference welcomed the proposal to set up an Agricultural Commodities Advisory Committee and felt that this was a step in the right direction. With a view to providing adequate incentive to the farmers for the adoption of improved agricultural practices and thereby increase production, the Conference also recommended that minimum prices should be fixed for principal agricultural commodities and that these should be announced well before the sowing season.

10. *Agricultural demonstration on cultivators' fields.*—The Conference noted the important role played by agricultural demonstrations on cultivators' fields in ensuring adoption of improved

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agricultural techniques and practices by the farmers and felt that such demonstrations should be organised on a large scale during the Third Five-Year Plan period.

11. *Ravine reclamation.*—Realising the urgent need for undertaking ravine reclamation work on a big scale, the Conference recommended that proper surveys should be made for ascertaining the extent of area affected by the ravine erosion and that a comprehensive programme of reclamation should be chalked out on the basis of this survey and included in the Third Five-Year Plan. The Conference was of the view that the development of these areas will not only lead to greater agricultural production, but also contribute to the improvement of law and order situation.

12. *Water-logging.*—The Conference noted that the problem of water-logging in Punjab has been assuming serious proportions and urged that increasing lengths of drains should be constructed to relieve water congestion.

13. *Flood control.*—In view of the severe damage caused to crops, property and life by frequent floods, the Conference recommended that highest priority should be given to measures relating to flood control and drainage in the vulnerable areas.

14. *Hybrid maize.*—The Conference recognised the need for special arrangements for augmenting the production of hybrid maize and supported the proposal of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for the setting up of a Central Seed Corporation at All-India level. Further, it was recommended that appropriate organisations should also be set up in the States so that maximum possible fillip is given to the production of hybrid maize in the country.

15. *Development of horticulture.*—Realising the important place occupied by the development of horticulture and vegetable seeds in the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir and Assam, the Conference recommended that high priority should be given to horticulture and vegetable seed programmes in these areas, as apart from contributing to improved nutritional standards, this would also result in earning or saving valuable foreign exchange. The development measures needed for this purpose should also include provision for transport and marketing facilities.

16. *Potato cultivation.*—The Conference recognised that greater attention should be paid to the improvement and expansion of potato cultivation in the country and that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture should consider the question of setting up suitable organisations for the development of production and marketing of potatoes.

17. *Jute Seed Development Programmes.*—In view of the great importance of good quality seed in jute development programme, the Conference recommended that the States should promulgate Seed Acts for ensuring rapid spread of approved varieties.

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18. *Tube-wells.*—The Conference suggested that the feasibility of State Governments procuring their own rigs and having suitable organisations for tubewells construction might be explored.

19. *Soil tests and analysis.*—Recognising the importance of soil tests and analysis, the Conference recommended that the soil testing work should be continued and expanded, where necessary, and that proper co-ordination of the work done in the various States should be ensured.

20. *Rural Universities.*—While recognising the need for the development of more Rural Universities in the country, the Conference suggested that programmes in this regard should be carefully drawn up, keeping in view the limited resources made available for this scheme and the relative state of preparedness of different areas.

21. *Development of animal husbandry.*—The Conference emphasised the need for paying greater attention to programmes for development of animal husbandry, with particular reference to breeding of cows.

22. *Veterinary Councils.*—Recognising the importance of Veterinary Councils, the Conference recommended that the State Governments should expedite action for the establishment of State Veterinary Councils.